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FRIDAY
AUGUST 14, 1953

Nothing but bad news in the papers today; aggravation of French strikes, disputes with our partners over how to handle the Korean political conference, devastating earthquakes in Greece, the Glaoui attempting to depose the Sultan of Morocco, and so forth.

Talked to Monnet on the phone this morning. We met at my house at three o'clock. He has just returned from ten days of climbing Swiss mountains and is looking ~~very~~ fit. We agreed that ~~nothing~~^{little} useful can be attempted in the field of European integration until the German elections are over.

Tonight Monsieur and Madame Porthault had dinner with us at Versailles and we had an enjoyable evening. The weather is clear, the nights deliciously cool, but the mosquitoes rampant and numerous, despite our screens. It is strange how utterly indifferent the French appear to be to protecting themselves against the assaults of flies and mosquitoes. They really prefer to have no screens on the theory ~~that~~ they impede the free circulation of air.

The rabbits in our little park are thoroughly affected by the dread disease. We have buried sixteen in the last three days, and the Versailles fields stink with putrefying little corpses. The eyes of the animals attacked get fiery red before closing in blindness, their heads swell and become congested with pus, and their bodies distend monstrously. It is a distressing and terrible spectacle. One does not yet know whether the Pasteur Institute vaccine will be successful in preserving a small breeding stock for the future.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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